



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST PAUL DISTRICT  
ST PAUL DISTRICT OFFICE  
332 MINNESOTA STREET SUITE E1500  
ST PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1323

CEMVP-RD

June 6, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023),<sup>1</sup> MVP-2025-00496-JST (SP 3409-23) MFR 1 of 1

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.<sup>2</sup> AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.<sup>3</sup>

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>4</sup> the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

---

<sup>1</sup> While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

<sup>2</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>3</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>4</sup> USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

Name of Aquatic Resource	JD or Non-JD
Wetland 1 (3.75 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional
Wetland 2 (4.90 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional
Wetland 3 (0.50 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional
Wetland 36 (0.25 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional, excluded feature
Wetland 38a (0.12 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional, excluded feature
Wetland 38b (0.30 acres)	Non-Jurisdictional

## 2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. “Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of ‘Continuous Surface Connection’ Under The Definition Of “Waters Of The United States” Under The Clean Water Act” (March 12, 2025)
2. REVIEW AREA. The review area for this determination includes two wet ditches and four wetlands, as identified in Section 1 (a) of this MFR and shown on the attached figures labeled MVP-2025-00496-JST AJD Figures – Pages 1-4 of 4. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination was issued on August 25, 2015, under file number MVP-2013-04581-RMM which determined that Wetlands 36 and 38 are not Waters of the United States subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.

- a. Project Area Size (in acres): 5.48 acres
  - b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 17 & 20, Township 119N, Range 35W, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.
  - c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)  
Latitude: 45.110550 Longitude: -95.094500
  - d. Nearest City or Town: Willmar
  - e. County: Kandiyohi
  - f. State: Minnesota
3. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A<sup>5</sup>
4. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
5. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>6</sup>: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.<sup>7</sup>
- N/A
6. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets

---

<sup>5</sup> This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

<sup>6</sup> 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

<sup>7</sup> This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

the relevant category of “waters of the United States” in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.

- a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A
- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A
- c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

## 7. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).<sup>8</sup>

The aquatic resources identified as Wetland 36 (0.25 acre), Wetland 38a (0.12 acre), and the western extent of Wetland 38b (0.30 acre) are linear roadside drainage ditches constructed in upland and draining only upland. This determination is supported by the NRCS Web Soil Survey which indicates that these areas are not mapped in all hydric soils. The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) also do not show any features overlapping with Wetland 36 and Wetlands 38a and 38b. A review of Google Earth aerial imagery also does not show the features carrying a relatively permanent flow. Historic aerial imagery collected from the Minnesota Historical Aerial Photographs Online (MNHAPO) database indicate that these features

---

<sup>8</sup> 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

were constructed in association with the road development to convey stormwater runoff. A review of the US Geological Service 3DEP Hillshade, DEM, and MNDNR 2-foot contour maps shows that these features are located within depressional areas in higher elevations, indicating these features were constructed in uplands. Wetland 38 is split into two separate ditched portions with the western portion identified as Wetland 38a and the eastern portion gradually transitions from ditch to wetland and is identified as Wetland 38b. These features were constructed as a stormwater drainage features to convey runoff from the roadway. Based on a review of desktop resources, Wetland 36 and Wetlands 38a and 38b are linear roadside drainage ditches constructed in upland, draining only upland, and do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water. Therefore, these aquatic resources have been determined to be Paragraph (b)(3) excluded ditches and are not subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

The aquatic resources within the review area identified as Wetland 1 (3.75 acre), Wetland 2 (4.90 acre), Wetland 3 (0.50 acre), and the eastern extent of Wetland 38b (0.30 acre) are not TNWs, territorial seas, or interstate waters and are therefore not (a)(1) waters. This determination is supported by the national wetland inventory and hydrography datasets, which does not identify any aquatic resources or other potential connections between these wetlands and any other requisite covered waters. Wetland 1 consists of fresh wet meadow and shallow marsh wetland community types and is adjacent to Trunk Highway 40 (TH 40) which was historically connected to Wetland 2 prior to road construction. Wetland 1 is surrounded by uplands within agricultural fields. Wetland 2 is located south of Wetland 1 along TH 40 and is comprised of fresh wet meadow and shallow marsh wetland community types. Wetland 2 extends off-site to the south as part of a larger emergent wetland complex before transitioning into developed areas within uplands and does not flow into any downstream jurisdictional waters. Wetland 3 is a seasonally flooded basin located along TH 40 and is within a depression surrounded by uplands in agricultural fields. Wetland 38b transitions from the wet ditch portion into a seasonally flooded basin at the eastern extent and is surrounded by uplands within agricultural fields. The ditched portion of Wetland 38b does not serve as a continuous surface connection to the wetland portion as it is an excluded Paragraph (b)(3) water. The surrounding area land use consists of farmed fields, residential neighborhoods, parks, commercial developments, and roadways. These wetlands do not physically abut any (a)(1) waters, (a)(2) impoundments, or (a)(3) tributaries. The subject aquatic resources

do not have a continuous surface connection to any relatively permanent water and as such do not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as (a)(4) wetlands; therefore, these aquatic resources are not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 Rule.

8. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
  - a. Minnesota Regulatory Viewer: 3DEP Hillshade Layer, MNDNR 2-foot contour layer, US Geological Service 3DEP Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and NHD layers, and USFWS NWI layer.
  - b. Google Earth aerial imagery dated 2015, 2019, 2023.
  - c. MNHAPO historic aerial imagery dated 1938 and 1963.
  - d. USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey Report accessed on June 3, 2025.
  - e. TH 40 Turn Lane Improvements Type & Boundary Application prepared by Bolton & Menk, Inc. dated September 20, 2024.
9. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A
10. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.



TH 40 Turn Lanes

Figure 1: Location Map



January 2025

City of Willmar













